

Prescription Group Minutes
May 9, 2007

SUMMARY et Al

First, we thank Linda Hofmann, Administrative Director Behavioral Health Services, FMH, for attending our meeting and actively participating (see below). We hope that she will join us in the future. She would be a valuable and welcome addition.

- I failed to bring up the date of our next meeting which if we stick to our usual schedule would be Weds June 13th. However, we have a prospective new member, Mark Bandy, a pharmacist from Walkersville who can not make Wednesdays.

QUESTION FOR ALL, PLEASE RESPOND, EITHER WAY:

Do any of you have a problem if we were to switch the meeting to the second Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday of the month instead of the second Wednesday (next meeting would then be June 11, or 12, or 14)? In that way we could have Mark join our group? If this is not feasible, we will stick with our current schedule.

- There will be a full Healthcare Coalition Meeting on May 23rd at FMH at 4 pm.
- Katherine/Heather will attempt to obtain a list of the most prescribed, expensive medications from FMH. It was suggested that the Religious Coalition would also be a good source of this information (Brian could you also see if you could obtain this information).
- Linda offered to find out more about the prescription vouchers that are given to physicians by pharmaceutical companies which permit patients to obtain free medication (potential partial solution to the "time-gap" problem) -- also, she offered to obtain more info on the NYT May 9th article on rebates given to physicians for certain cancer drugs.
- There was a general discussion of the flaws in the Medicare Part D program, need for long term legislative initiatives, and the need to better connect and coordinate the activities of many other organizations with our efforts..

Thank you all. We look forward to seeing you at the May 23rd Full Coalition Meeting.

Tom Werner